

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Welcome to our service today.**

**We have George Ndum from East Ham Baptist Church, speaking to us from Zephaniah 1: 1-18. His sermon is titled “The day of the Lord is near.” George encourages us to read the first three chapters of Zephaniah.**

**Later Chris will lead us in Prayers for the World and the worship, led by Hilary, includes praise from the Psalms and songs for you to enjoy and praise God.**

**Psalm 135**

**<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.<sup>[a]</sup>**

**Praise the name of the LORD;  
praise him, you servants of the LORD,  
<sup>2</sup> you who minister in the house of the LORD,  
in the courts of the house of our God.  
<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.**

**Song: Come praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ownduUCbf-Y>**

**Notices**

- 1. There will be a church members meeting on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Please look out for a Zoom link nearer the time.**
- 2. As part of your worship, please remember to put aside your cash offerings until we can meet in person. Thank you to those who use bank transfer.**

**Psalm 136**

**<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.  
*His love endures for ever.***

**<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods.  
*His love endures for ever.***

**<sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords:  
*His love endures for ever.***

**<sup>4</sup> to him who alone does great wonders,  
*His love endures for ever.***

**<sup>5</sup> who by his understanding made the heavens,  
*His love endures for ever.***

**<sup>6</sup> who spread out the earth upon the waters,  
*His love endures for ever.***

**<sup>7</sup> who made the great lights –  
*His love endures for ever.***

**<sup>8</sup> the sun to govern the day,  
*His love endures for ever.***

**<sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to govern the night;  
*His love endures for ever.***

Give thanks to the Lord our God & King His love endures forever. Sing praise.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUH\\_NzfRmbs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUH_NzfRmbs)

Indescribable

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IIVfkY5q54>

How wonderful that God who created heaven and earth, loves and cares about each one of us.

The following Psalm describes how well God knows us and even despite knowing us so well, still loves us.

#### Psalm 139

- <sup>1</sup> You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,'
- <sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.
- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

<sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts,<sup>[a]</sup> God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
<sup>18</sup> Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand –  
when I awake, I am still with you.  
<sup>19</sup> If only you, God, would slay the wicked!  
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!  
<sup>20</sup> They speak of you with evil intent;  
your adversaries misuse your name.  
<sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,  
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?  
<sup>22</sup> I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.  
<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Do you ever find yourself knowing you need to confess but not knowing what you need to say sorry for?

In 1 John 1:9 we read "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"

But often we do things we are not aware of. Whether it's saying something that hurts someone or in these times of restriction, when we might not be seeing many people, even thinking unhelpful thoughts about someone. God knows our hearts. In Psalm 19:12-13 we hear "Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults ... Then will I be blameless".

Let's read the last two verses from Psalm 139 again.

Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

And 'sing' the following song.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,

All desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden.

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

So that we may truly love you and worthily praise your holy name.

Through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Offer up your own prayers of confession to our loving God.

A song of celebration – you may want to dance. Also, there's extra verses in the middle which I haven't sung before.

**Song: God is good, we sing & shout it**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hFp8\\_UkXiQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hFp8_UkXiQ)

**Chris will lead us in Prayers for the World.**

**COVID 19**

**I was praying some weeks ago, feeling weary during the pandemic. It is tragic to realise that this virus now inhabits the earth. My thoughts turned to health workers on the hospital wards, so I wrote them down in order to pray.**

**Health workers must be drained.**

**At home, despair, ready to weep, to sit with head in hands wondering how much more is to come.**

**Depression passes over them like a shadow.**

**Intensive ward, intensive demands, intensive pressure.**

**They must be alert to every significant change.**

**They must be wise to make critical decisions.**

**They must cope with their own emotions and the tension around each bed.**

**They must be compassionate to the eyes that meet theirs.**

**Cannot let anyone die alone.**

**Listening patiently to families crying on the telephone.**

**Reaching breaking point but must show strength.**

**Must not walk away.**

**Stay and watch another death and weep silently.**

**Each day return to continue their vocation.**

**O Lord, we pray strengthen every sinew, encourage every heart, convict every mind of your healing carried out through them.**

**When they are disheartened bring them your peace.**

**When they are scared give them hope to overcome.**

**When their front-line colleagues pay the price of their service help them to persevere.**

**When they are falling hold them up by your mighty power.**

**Our Father thank you that you are with us, you have not forsaken us. You are passing through these troubled waters with us, according to your promises.**

**Thank you, Lord, that the infection rate is falling, that daily deaths are decreasing, that the vaccine programme is rolling out according to plan.**

**Yet help us all to remain vigilant as this virus remains infectious and deadly.**

**You are the Lord who heals us.**

**Enable us all to reach up to touch your outstretched hand and feel your presence.**

**We bring to you our love and compassion for doctors, surgeons, nurses and all**

**healthcare workers, praying for each one to know your love, kindness and strength**

for them.

As we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil your rod and your staff comfort us.

Our hope is in you Lord.

Have Mercy we pray.

The leprous man called out to Jesus "Lord, if you are willing you can make me clean." Jesus replied "I am willing. Be clean."

We pray that your Holy Spirit will put a desire in many hearts to ask God for healing Help us to trust you

Jehovah-Rapha. I am the Lord who heals you.

Song: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKIQpjl\\_oqY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKIQpjl_oqY)

### Zephania1: 1 -18

The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah:

#### Judgment on the Whole Earth in the Day of the LORD

<sup>2</sup>“I will sweep away everything  
from the face of the earth,”  
declares the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>“I will sweep away both man and beast;  
I will sweep away the birds in the sky  
and the fish in the sea—  
and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble.”<sup>[a]</sup>

“When I destroy all mankind  
on the face of the earth,”  
declares the LORD,

<sup>4</sup>“I will stretch out my hand against Judah  
and against all who live in Jerusalem.  
I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place,  
the very names of the idolatrous priests—

<sup>5</sup>those who bow down on the roofs  
to worship the starry host,  
those who bow down and swear by the LORD  
and who also swear by Molek,<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>6</sup>those who turn back from following the LORD  
and neither seek the LORD nor inquire of him.”

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Sovereign LORD,  
for the day of the LORD is near.

The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;  
he has consecrated those he has invited.

<sup>8</sup>“On the day of the LORD’s sacrifice  
I will punish the officials  
and the king’s sons  
and all those clad  
in foreign clothes.

<sup>9</sup>On that day I will punish

all who avoid stepping on the threshold,<sup>[c]</sup>  
who fill the temple of their gods  
with violence and deceit.  
<sup>10</sup> “On that day,”  
declares the LORD,  
“a cry will go up from the Fish Gate,  
wailing from the New Quarter,  
and a loud crash from the hills.  
<sup>11</sup> Wail, you who live in the market district<sup>[d]</sup>;  
all your merchants will be wiped out,  
all who trade with<sup>[e]</sup> silver will be destroyed.  
<sup>12</sup> At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps  
and punish those who are complacent,  
who are like wine left on its dregs,  
who think, ‘The LORD will do nothing,  
either good or bad.’  
<sup>13</sup> Their wealth will be plundered,  
their houses demolished.  
Though they build houses,  
they will not live in them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they will not drink the wine.”  
<sup>14</sup> The great day of the LORD is near—  
near and coming quickly.  
The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter;  
the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.  
<sup>15</sup> That day will be a day of wrath—  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of trouble and ruin,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and blackness—  
<sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the corner towers.  
<sup>17</sup> “I will bring such distress on all people  
that they will grope about like those who are blind,  
because they have sinned against the LORD.  
Their blood will be poured out like dust  
and their entrails like dung.  
<sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD’s wrath.”  
In the fire of his jealousy  
the whole earth will be consumed,  
for he will make a sudden end  
of all who live on the earth.

Talk: George Ndum “The Day of the Lord is Near.”  
[2021-03-07 George Ndum.mp3 \(13MB\)](#)

Song: Come Lord Jesus, pour out your Spirit we pray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WfNa71KpOM>

**Blessing:**

**The Blessing UK — At this unique and challenging time in the United Kingdom over 65 churches and movements, representing hundreds of others, have come together online to sing a blessing over our land. Standing together as one, our desire is that this song will fill you with hope and encourage you. But the church is not simply singing a blessing, each day we're looking to practically be a blessing. Our buildings may be closed but the church is very much alive!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtlI3mNj5U>

**The Lord bless you and keep you  
Make His face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His Face toward you and give you peace  
As we receive, we agree, Amen  
Amen, amen, amen.**

**May His favour be upon you and a thousand generations  
And your family and your children and their children, and their children  
May His presence go before you and behind you, and beside you  
All around you, and within you He is with you, He is with you**